

MACD 73rd annual meeting convenes Jan. 17-18 in Jackson



JACKSON, MS – The MACD 73rd Annual Meeting was held Jan. 17-18, 2018, at the Hilton-Jackson.

This year MACD celebrates healthy soil and recognizes Mississippi's own Soil Health Champions.

Mississippi's champions are among more than 170 farmers, ranchers and forestland owners nationwide that

are sharing their stories on the [NACD Soil Health Champions Network website page](#).

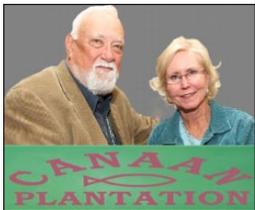
The [Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission's website](#) will soon feature success stories about our Soil Health Champions and farmers, ranchers and forestland owners implementing successful soil health

on their land.

The two-day annual meeting featured sessions, presentations, training, meetings, award ceremonies and more, with those in attendance including ranchers, farmers, conservationists, legislators, county and state officials, and speakers from throughout the continental United States.



Celebrating Our Soil Health Champions



David & Martha Barton
Barton Farms/ Canaan Plantation
Hinds County



Tim & Betty Hudson
H & H Farms
DeSoto County



Emile Guedon Jr.
Guedon Farms
Adams County & more



Pete & Pam Hunter
Edmont Planting Company
Stovall Farms
Coahoma County



Bill Eastman
Magowan Ranch
Lowndes County



Mike Graves
Ripley, Mississippi

President's Awards Luncheon recognizes 2017 winners

JACKSON, MS – The MACD 73rd Annual Meeting awards luncheon was held at the Hilton-Jackson on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018. Winners at the state level who were presented awards include:

The first-place State and sixth-place NCF Envirothon team from Oxford High School

was recognized. Malcolm Luker, MS FFA Conference Center Director, received the MS Envirothon Special Recognition Award.

Winners from the MACD Poster, Essay and Photo Contest were as follows:

Poster Contest Winners:

Mia Berry, grades K-1, Madison Co. SWCD; Marcus Cox, grades 2-3, Tate Co. SWCD; Gracie Barlow, grades 4-6, Tate Co. SWCD; Sarah Basha, grades 7-9, Coahoma Co. SWCD; Cameron Collins, grades 10-12, Jones Co. SWCD; and; Carolyn Stanford, Special Education grades 7-12, Itawamba Co. SWCD.

Poster contest winners re-



Pete Hunter presents a certificate to Mia Berry of Madison Co., the poster contest winner for grades K-1.



Pete Hunter and Gary Blair display the 2017 Newsletter Award. The 2017 winner is Yazoo Co. SWCD.

ceived a certificate and a \$50 award.

Essay Contest Winners:

Rachel Temple, grades 7-8, Franklin Co. SWCD; Robert Dent, grades 9-10, Yazoo Co. SWCD; and; Taylor Gough, grades 11-12, Tate Co. SWCD.

Essay Contest



Pete Hunter presents a certificate to Sandra Warren of Jefferson Davis Co. for placing first in the MACD photo contest, "Close-Up Conservation" adult category.



Pete Hunter presents a certificate to Jennifer Rikard of Stone Co. for placing first in the MACD photo contest, "Ag/Conservation Across Mississippi" adult category.

Warren, Rikard place first in state and national photography contests

NASHVILLE, TN — On Jan. 29, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) announced the 2017 contest winners at the organization's 72nd Annual Meeting. Two Mississippians, who entered the national photo competition through their local conservation districts, both placed first in the adult photographer category:

Jennifer Rikard of Stone County SWCD, and;

Sandra Warren of Jefferson Davis SWCD.

Rikard placed first in the "Agriculture and Conservation Across America" adult category for her photo, "Sunflower in Bloom," and Warren placed first in the "Close-Up Conservation" adult category for her photo, "Dragonfly on my Confederate Rose." They both will receive \$100 for placing first in the national competition.

An avid photographer, Warren has been a District Commissioner for the Jefferson Davis County SWCD since 1992, and

previously served as district clerk. An active member of Whitesand Baptist Church and a lifelong Jefferson Davis County resident, she enjoys planting flowers, and feeding and watching birds and butterflies.

She and her husband have two children and two grandchildren.

A native of Duck Hill, MS, Rikard is a District Administrator at the Stone County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Rikard family lives in Wiggins, MS, and are members of the First Baptist Church, where her husband serves as pastor. Rikard, her husband and their two children enjoy beekeeping.

In order to advance to the national competition, Rikard and Warren both placed first at the state level.

The NACD photo competition recognizes individuals who use photography effectively and creatively.



Natalie Segrest, MDEQ, displays the MS Envirothon Special Recognition award won by Malcolm Luker, MS FFA Conference Center Director. Monte Ladner accepted the award for Luker.



Pete Hunter presents a certificate to Youth Photo Contest Winner Anna Campbell, Yazoo Co., "Conservation Practices."

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS continued to page 3

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS *continued from page 2*

Winners received a certificate and a \$50 award.

Photo Contest Winners, Youth Division: Anna Campbell, Yazoo Co. SWCD, "Conservation Practices;" Sarah Chitty, Holmes Co. SWCD, "Close-Up Conservation;" Addison Wade, Montgomery Co. SWCD, "Conservation in Action," and; Austin Jordan, Yazoo Co. SWCD, "Ag/Conservation Across MS."

Photo Contest Winners, Adult: Murry Murphy, Itawamba Co. SWCD, "Conservation Practices;" Sandra Warren, Jefferson Davis Co. SWCD, "Close-Up Conservation;" Cory Wade, Montgomery Co. SWCD, "Conservation in Action," and; Jennifer Rikard, Stone Co. SWCD, "Ag/Conservation Across MS." The overall photography winner is Sarah Chitty.

Teacher of the Year: Heather Giger, Lamar Co. Ms. Giger received a \$100 check.



Herman Dungan Jr. displays the M.C. Sparks Jr. \$5,000 MACD Memorial Scholarship Award won by Sharli Burroughs, Jackson Co. Benny Goff accepted the award on her behalf.



Herman Dungan Jr., left, displays the \$5,000 Herman L. Dungan Jr. MACD Endowment Scholarship Award won by Emily Vowell. Nathan Tadlock accepts on her behalf.



Herman Dungan Jr., right, and Paul R. Myrick present Edith Davis Kent with the \$5,000 Paul R. Myrick MACD Endowment Scholarship Award.



Pete Hunter, left, and Herman Dungan Jr. display the \$3,000 MACD Endowment Scholarship Award won by Jesse Anna Robinson.



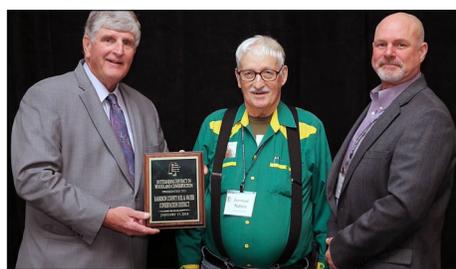
Herman Dungan Jr., left, displays the \$3,000 MACD Endowment Scholarship Award won by Samantha Bishop. Paul Myrick accepts the award.



Gary Blair, left, and Pete Hunter display Sarah Chitty's Overall Winning Photo in the state.



Jerry Smith, right, accepts the MACD Endowment Matching Grant Award for Neshoba Co. from MACD President Pete Hunter.

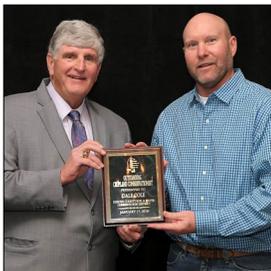


Pete Hunter, left, presents the Outstanding District in Woodland Conservation Award to Harrison Co. SWCD. Commissioners Leonard Nahlen, center, and Greg Crochet accept the award.

tal Stewardship: Broadlawn Farms, Leake Co. Mr. and Mrs. James O'Mara accepted this award.

Outstanding District in Woodland Conservation: Harrison Co. SWCD.

2017 MACD Endowment Scholarship



Pete Hunter, left, presents the MACD Outstanding Membership Award for DeSoto Co.. Scott Richey accepts the award.

Outstanding Membership Drive Award: DeSoto Co. SWCD.
Newsletter Award, Yazoo Co. SWCD.
Friend of Conservation Award: How-

ard Industries Inc. of Jones Co.
Outstanding Cropland Conservationist: Dale Cole (Blythe Bayou Farms) DeSoto Co. A representative from DeSoto Co. accepted this award.
Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist: Panther Ridge Farms, Marion Co. Paul Lawrence accepted this award.
Outstanding Livestock Environmen-

Awards:
Youth Camp Scholarship Winner Angel Woods, Choctaw Co.; MACD Endowment Fund Scholarship Award winners, Jesse Robinson, Yalobusha Co., and Samantha Bishop, Jasper Co. Brother M.C. Sparks MACD Endowment Scholarship Award, Sharli Lane Burroughs, Jackson Co.; Herman L.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS *continued from page 3*

Dungan Jr. MACD Endowment Scholarship Award, Emily Carolyn Vowell; Paul R. Myrick MACD Endowment Scholarship Award, Edith Davis Kent, Lafayette Co.

MACD Endowment Fund Matching Grant District Awards: Lowndes and Neshoba counties.



Gary Blair, left, and Pete Hunter display the Teacher of the Year Award. Heather Giger of Lamar Co. was this year's winner.



Pete Hunter presents the Livestock Environmental Stewardship Award to Mr and Mrs James O Mara, Broadlawn Farms.



MACD President Pete Hunter and Second Vice President Anita Cowan display the Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist Award won by Panther Ridge Farm.



AT RIGHT: MACD First Vice President Jerry Smith announced award winners at the President's Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018.

Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts
www.macdweb.org
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
www.mswcc.ms.gov

NRCS Earth Team winners honored at luncheon

JACKSON, MS — NRCS EARTH TEAM AWARDS were presented at the MACD 73rd Annual Meeting President's Awards luncheon on Wed., Jan. 17, 2018, at the Hilton-Jackson. Award winners included:

Joyce Dickerson, Second Place Individ-



Kevin Kennedy, right, presents the award for the FFA at Brandon High School, the Group with the Most Volunteer Hours for MS NRCS Earth Team Volunteer 2017

ual, MS NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Award 2017; Smith County Second Place Group, MS NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Award 2017; FFA Brandon High School, Group with Most Volunteer Hours, MS NRCS Earth



Kevin Kennedy, right, presents the award for Cody Gaines, NRCS Individual with Most Volunteer Hours Scott Richey accepts the award.

Team Volunteer 2017; Danielle Culbert, Student with the Most Volunteer Hours, MS NRCS Earth Team Volunteer 2017; Cody Gaines, Individual with Most Volunteer Hours, MS

EARTH TEAM *continued from page 4*

NRCS Earth Team Volunteer 2017; Stone County, Friends of Conservation with Most Volunteer Hours, MS NRCS Earth Team Volunteer 2017;

Cody Gaines, Individual State Award Winner, Mississippi NRCS, Earth Team Volunteer 2017, and; Hernando Field Office, Group State Award Winner, Mississippi NRCS Earth Team



Kevin Kennedy, right, presents the second place Earth Team Volunteer Award for Joyce Dickerson. Scott Richey accepts the award.

Michael Carr, accepted this award in honor of Miss Carr. She was honored as "A Dedicated Volunteer" and 2017 Earth Team Volunteer.

NRCS Area Conservationist Awards, all with 100 Percent Participation in their Areas:

Christy Robinson, Area 1; David Brunson, Area 2; Scott Culberson, Area 3, and; Kevin Kennedy, Area 4.

Volunteer 2017. NRCS Award for *Dedicated Volunteer Service*: This award was presented in loving memory of Regina Michelle Carr, Her father,



Michael Carr, left, accepts the NRCS Award for Dedicated Volunteer Service posthumously for his daughter, Regina Michelle Carr. Kevin Kennedy presents the award, which honors Miss Carr as a "Dedicated Volunteer" and 2017 Earth Team Volunteer.

Natalie Daley Wins MACD Auxiliary/ MACD District Scholarship



Gail Causey (right), the MCDEA incoming first vice president, presents Natalie Brooke Daley with the MACD Auxiliary and MACD District Employees scholarship.



Kevin Kennedy, left, presents the award for NRCS Area Conservationist Award with 100 Percent Participation in Area 2. Bill Russell accepts the award.



Kevin Kennedy, right, presents the award for NRCS Area Conservationist Award with 100 Percent Participation in Area 1 to Christy Robinson.



Kevin Kennedy, right, presents the award for NRCS Area Conservationist Award with 100 Percent Participation in Area 3 to Scott Culberson.



Clarence Finley, NRCS, left, presents the award for NRCS Area Conservationist Award with 100 Percent Participation in Area 4 to Kevin Kennedy.



Commission News

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The Hon. MS Supreme Court Justice Jim Kitchens (foreground) conducts the Oath of Office ceremony for SWCD Commissioners at the MACD 73rd Annual Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018.



Craig Derickson (left), the NRCS State Conservationist for Nebraska, Homer Wilkes with the USDA and Kim LaFleur (right) NACD Secretary-Treasurer, state advisor and program director for the Massachusetts FFA Association were among the speakers at the 73rd Annual Meeting.



MACD President Pete Hunter



2018 MACD Board of Directors (left to right): Pete Hunter, president; Jerry Smith, first vice president; Melba Nipper, secretary-treasurer; Gary Blair, past president, and; Anita Cowan, second vice president.



Kim LaFleur, NACD Secretary-Treasurer, spoke at the General Session on Thursday, Jan. 18.



Mark Gilbert, executive director of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, speaks at the 73rd Annual Meeting live auction on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018.



Dr. Bill Evans spoke about the Up In Farms Food Hub during a breakout session at the annual meeting.



Glenn L. McCullough Jr., the executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, speaks at the MACD 73rd Annual Meeting.



Alcorn State University



Roundstone Seed (left) and MACD Endowment Fund (above)

PHOTOS
BY
DEB
LOGAN



NRCS introduces Mighty Mini Microbe



Alcorn State University

MACD goes back to the 1950's for Live Auction



Meeting concludes with banquet, awards ceremony

The 73rd Annual Meeting concluded with a closing banquet and awards ceremony on Jan. 18, which included recognition of legislators, county supervisors, city officials, award winners and members of the MACD Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Robert St. John, a chef, author, restaurateur and co-host of a cooking show, was a special guest and speaker at the ceremony. He entertained those in attendance with stories about the joys and tribulations of being a parent.

MACD State awards were presented as follows:

Erica Fortenberry of Neshoba Co., Central area, was named the District Employee of the Year.

Jeff Fortenberry of Noxubee Co., Central area, was named NRCS Employee of the year

Russell Gray Houston of Marshall Co., North area was named Commissioner of the Year.

Ernest Brasher Jr.

was recognized for his induction in to the Southeast Region NACD Hall of Fame in 2017. Brasher has served as Commissioner in Tallahatchie Co. for 48 years.

Commissioner service pins were presented to those present.

Recipients of service pins were:

50 Years of Service: David Sorrels, Kemper Co. SWCD and R.G. Houston, Marshall Co. SWCD.

30 Years of Service: Paul Myrick, Jasper Co. SWCD, and Herman Dungan Jr., Jefferson Davis Co. SWCD;

25 Years of Service: Wayne Johnson, Calhoun Co. SWCD; Darrell Graham, Covington Co. SWCD; John Keenan, Jasper Co. SWCD; Greg Robertson, Sunflower Co. SWCD, and; Pauline Harwell of Clarke Co.



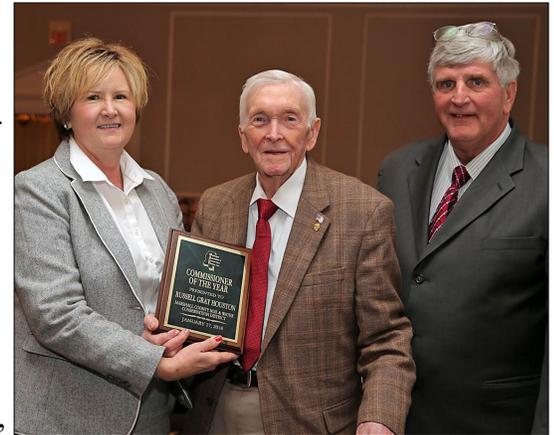
Pete Hunter presents Erica Fortenberry of Neshoba Co. the District Employee of the Year Award.



Pete Hunter, left, presents David Sorrels with the MACD Commissioner 50-Year Service Pin.



Pete Hunter presents Jeff Fortenberry of Neshoba Co. the NRCS Employee of the Year Award.



MACD Second Vice President Anita Cowan and MACD President Pete Hunter, right, present the Commissioner of the Year Award to Russell Gray Houston of Marshall Co. SWCD. Houston also received a 50-year Service Pin.



Pete Hunter, left, presents Herman Dungan Jr. with the MACD Commissioner 30-Year Service Pin.



Pete Hunter, left, presents Paul Myrick with the MACD Commissioner 30-Year Service Pin.

SWCD.

Gail Causey, the incoming first vice president of the Mississippi District Conservation District Employees Association, presented outgoing president Nancy Melancon with a token of appreciation for her dedication and service as president from January 2016-2018.

MACD President Pete Hunter closed with the President's Award. Melba

MEETING CONCLUDES *continued from page 9*

Nipper, MACD Secretary/Treasurer, received the award from Hunter, who presented it with heartfelt thanks for Nipper's years of dedicated service to MACD. This was her last Annual Meeting, as Nipper is retiring in June 2018.

Gail Causey, left, incoming first vice president for MCDEA, presents Nancy Melancon with a token of appreciation for her service as MCDEA president from Jan. 2016-2018.



MACD President Pete Hunter presents Melba Nipper, MACD Secretary/Treasurer, with the President's Award for her service to MACD.



Pete Hunter, left, presents Darrell Graham with the MACD Commissioner 25-Year Service Pin.



MACD President Pete Hunter, left, presents Greg Robertson with the MACD Commissioner 25-Year Service Pin.



Robert St. John, a chef, restaurateur and author, was the special guest at the banquet.

*More than \$20,000 was raised
at the MACD 73rd
Annual Meeting for the
MACD Endowment Fund.*

PHOTOS BY DEB LOGAN

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Mark E. Gilbert, CPM, Executive Director

Buddy Allen
Chairman
Tunica, MS

Gary Blair
Brookhaven, MS

Charlie W. Morgan
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